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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/663,320 09/15/00 HIRST

G BBI-6081CP

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HM12/1109

EXAMINER

KIFLE, B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1624

DATE MAILED:

11/09/01

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/663,320

Applicant(s)

Hirst et al.

Examiner

Bruck Kifle

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sep 27, 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-88 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 2-88 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 20) ☐ Other:

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Election/Restriction

Applicant's election with traverse of the compound of example 1, page 88, line 5 in Paper No. 11 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the grounds that the species are different embodiments of a single inventive concept and that the search of the entire application can be done without serious burden. This is not found persuasive because, in fact, each of groups 1-117 supports a patent by itself. These groups are drawn to structurally dissimilar compounds which are made and used independently. They are independent and patentably distinct. If, say compounds of group 1 (classified in class 546, subclass 113), were anticipated, applicants would not acquiesce in the rejection of elected group 2 (classified in class 544, subclass 280) thereover or vice-versa. They are patentably distinct. The search required for group 1 is not required for groups 2-117. Therefore, it would be a serious burden to search the entire genus of claim 1.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claims 2-88 are withdrawn from consideration because art was found (see MPEP 803.02.)

Applicants are also advised of MPEP 803.02 Restriction - Markush Claims [R - 2], fourth paragraph, where is stated;

“As an example, in the case of an application with a Markush - type claim drawn to the compound C - R, wherein R is a radical selected from the group consisting of A, B, C, D, and E, the examiner may require a provisional election of a single species, CA, CB, CC, CD, or CE. The Markush - type claim would then be examined fully with respect to the elected species and any

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species considered to be clearly unpatentable over the elected species. If on examination the elected species is found to be anticipated or rendered obvious by prior art, the Markush - type claim and claims to the elected species shall be rejected, and claims to the non - elected species would be held withdrawn from further consideration. As in the prevailing practice, **a second action on the rejected claims would be made final.**" (emphasis added).

Improper Markush Rejection

Claim 1 is rejected under a judicially created doctrine as being drawn to an improper Markush group, that is, the claims lack unity of invention. Formula (I) is defined in such a way that it keeps changing the core of the compound that determines the classification. By changing these values, several patentably distinct and independent compounds are claimed. In order to have unity of invention the compounds must have "a community of chemical or physical characteristics" which justify their inclusion in a common group, and that such inclusion is not repugnant to principles of scientific classification" In re JONES (CCPA) 74 USPQ 149 (see footnote 2). The structural formula (I) does not have a significant structural feature that is shared by all of its alternatives which is inventive. Compounds embraced by formula (I) are so diverse in nature that a prior art anticipating a claim with respect to one member under 35 USC 102 would not render obvious the same claim under 35 USC 103. This is evidentiary of patentably distinct and independent inventions.

Limiting the claims to the elected group would overcome this rejection.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- i) It is not known what the prodrugs or the biologically active metabolites are.
- ii) The term “substituted” without specifying the intended substituents renders the claim indefinite because one skilled in the art cannot say which substituent is intended and which one is not.
- iii) The term “cycloalkyl” is indefinite because it is not known how many atoms make up the ring and what kind of a ring is intended (monocyclic, bicyclic, spiro, fused, bridged, saturated, etc.).
- iv) The term “heterocyclic” is indefinite because it is not known how many atoms make up the ring, which atoms are present and what kind of a ring (monocyclic, bicyclic, spiro, fused, bridged, saturated, etc.) is intended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Altmann et al. (WO 97/49706). The reference teaches a generic group of substituted 7-amino-pyrrolo[3,2-

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d]pyrimidine derivatives which embraces applicants' claimed compounds (See pages 1-4, compounds of formula (I) and definitions for R₁, R₂ and R₃; especially, R₃ as cycloalkyl and R₁ as substituted aryl). The claims differ from the reference by reciting specific species and a more limited genus than the reference. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to select any of the species of the genus taught by the reference, including those instantly claimed, because the skilled chemist would have the reasonable expectation that any of the species of the genus would have similar properties and, thus, the same use as taught for the genus as a whole. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to select the claimed compounds from the genus in the reference since such compounds would have been suggested by the reference as a whole. It has been held that a prior art disclosed genus of useful compounds is sufficient to render prima facie obvious a species falling within a genus. *In re Susi*, 440 F.2d 442, 169 USPQ 423, 425 (CCPA 1971), followed by the Federal Circuit in *Merck & Co. v. Biocraft Laboratories*, 847 F.2d 804, 10 USPQ 2d 1843, 1846 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The elected compound is allowable because the closest prior art reference of Altmann et al. (WO 97/49706) does not teach nor fairly suggest a phenoxyphenyl group at R₁.

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Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed 4/25/01 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each U.S. and foreign patent; each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bruck Kifle whose telephone number is (703) 305-4484.

The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-4556 or (703) 305-3592. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

November 8, 2001


Bruck Kifle
Primary Examiner
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